

First Witness for Commonwealth Gives Detailed Account of Prisoner's Conduct When He Arrived With Wife's Body at Owen Residence.

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Photo by W. W. Foster.

**Children Cry  
FOR FLETCHER'S**

by her husband from Newport News because of her serious nervous condition.

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## Evidence Shakes Statement That She Was Killed While Sitting in Car—Husband Staggered Under Influence of Brandy--Officers Testify

that there was nothing in his pro-  
fession to make him an expert to de-

"Myself."  
"Was anything said between you and him on that night before he left?"  
"Went to Drug store."  
"Yes. I asked him to go to the drug store to have a prescription filled Dr. Mercer had given me for my wife. He said he would, and took the prescription. It was pretty close on the time for the drug store to close, and the doctor said that the morning would do. I looked at my watch, but I don't remember whether he said it was sixteen or seventeen after 10, or 1, or whether he said it was twelve minutes after 10, or 1. He went off to the store to get the prescription."  
"Did he return?"  
"He returned."  
"Did he bring the prescription?"  
"The prescription arrived, but I couldn't say whether he brought it."  
"It didn't arrive before the body, did it?"  
"No, sir."  
"Did you examine the body?"  
"Not particularly. I saw the body after it had been prepared for burial. There was a hole in the left cheek, a hole about the size of half a dollar. Beattie's lips framed the same words, 'half a dollar,' as if he were repeating them unconsciously."  
"Did you continue the witness,"  
"was clothed with a coat, and my first impression was that the top of his head had been blown off. I did not assist in removing the body. Dr. Mann, Dr. Mercer and Dr. Loving examined the body." He stopped a moment to take a drink of water.  
"Did you examine any of her clothing?"  
"I can't say that I did."  
"Did you examine his clothing?"  
"Yes."  
"Describe the condition of the coat."  
"I saw his coat, and took it from

## Parents May Not Appear at Trial

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Dover, Del., August 24.—Robert V. Owen and his wife, parents of the murdered wife of Henry C. Beattie, Jr., will not go to Chesterfield to testify against the alleged slayer unless there shall be an extraordinary condition. They are at their home here with the unmaimed infant son of their daughter.

The disinclination to appear in the case is due to the personal friendship that exists between Henry C. Beattie, Sr., and themselves.

"We never lose sight of the fact," said Mr. Owen to-day, "that Mr. Beattie is the grandfather of our little grandchild. He has our sympathy."

He said that neither he nor his wife had been summoned in the case. When asked whether a summons would be obeyed, he being out of the jurisdiction of the Virginia court, he replied that it would depend entirely upon the purpose involved.

"I have trusted my interests in Virginia," he said, "to my brothers, Thomas and Ben T. Owen, the latter being secretary to Governor Mann. I do not feel that the presence of either Mrs. Owen or myself would do any good."

Mrs. Owen was brought to Dover by her husband from Newport News because of her serious nervous condition.

reporter for The Times-Dispatch, who told him the report then current, that it was a white woman who had been shot, not the husband.

He found Mrs. Beattie dead at the Owen home. H. C. Beattie, Sr., and Henry were there. Apparently Henry had an injury to his nose, and Dr. Mann insisted on bathing and examining it. The wound was found to be a trivial, superficial scratch that did not require any bandage. In view of the experience of the night he suggested bromide for Henry Beattie, but the young man declined, saying he did not care to take any quieting medicine. Later, at the coroner's request, Dr. Mann went in with Dr. Loving and Dr. Mercer to examine the body. A wound about the size of a half-dollar was found in the left side of the face just under the eye. It was a clear deep hole into which the doctor could run his finger without feeling bottom.

**Did Not Finish.**

He took his instrument case and finding a soft spot in the back of the head, about the right ear, he made the opening, when others called that a motor car was waiting to take him to Richmond and he left his instruments to Dr. Loving and Dr. Mercer. In the course of the examination he had noticed a slight swelling over the right eye, feeling like a lump, but apparently cracked, and there was brain tissue escaping from the right ear.

"From what cause did Mrs. Beattie die?" he was asked.

"She died from the gunshot wound," answered Dr. Mann.

Dr. Carter questioned vehement protestations were assigned to show his anger and position of the gun to have made such a wound.

The court ruled that Dr. Mann was permitted to speak as an expert on the effect of gun-shot wounds, but

Henry. Not on the stand, but a spectator, admitted that the letter was

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